

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit #3
Oakboro NC

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
PO BOX 10
OAKBORO NC 28129-0010



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

First Chronicle of First Baptist Church, Oakboro

VOL. XXX No. 2

February 1, 2019

UNSHAKABLE PURSUIT

*My dear friends, stand
firm and don't be shaken.
Always keep busy working
for the Lord. You know that
everything you do for him is
worthwhile.* • *Colossians 1:23, CEV*



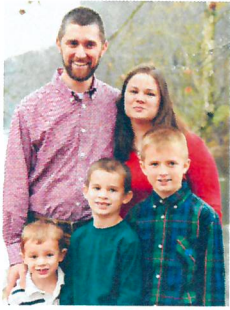
2019 Heck-Jones Offering

**Week of Prayer:
February 10 -17**

Church Goal: \$500

PO Box 10
322 N Main Street
Oakboro, NC 28129
www.fbcoakboro.org
firstbaptistoakboro@gmail.com

Rev. Jonathan Waits, Pastor
Office (704) 485-4313
pastorjwaits@gmail.com
(804) 896-4520
www.the-nexus.blog



There's just something powerful about knowing who you are. In a world where there is an endless stream of voices calling us to shape ourselves in their image, it's easy to feel a bit like we are adrift at sea with no anchor. And the storm clouds are growing darker all the time. If we don't have a clear sense of who we are, of who God made us to be, we'll cling to anything that looks even remotely solid to find shelter from the pressures of life. The problem is: there's only one rock that's really solid. When we have a strong, firm, clear sense of identity, though, we can walk a straight path from where we are to where we're going without having to worry about or be tempted by all the other voices around us. They aren't us.

This is all true whether we're talking about ourselves as individuals uniquely created by a loving God, or as a group of individuals sharing life in a community of faith. Fortunately, as we have been talking about for the previous couple of weeks and will continue examining and celebrating in the next couple ahead of us, we know who we are as a church community. We are a place where people can connect to grow in Christ and reach out for His kingdom. That's who God made us to be.

We are a place where people can connect no matter where they are coming from or what their background is. We are a place where people can grow in Christ so that they can produce healthy Gospel seeds in their lives. And, as we'll talk about this coming Sunday, we're not content for all of this to merely be happening in-house. We are a place that reaches out to plant those seeds in the community around us so that even more kingdom growth can be unleashed.

This is all who we are. And as the winds of the culture both in the church and outside the church continue to blow around us, calling us to run this way and that, we can stand firm. We can stand firm and advance the Gospel message with intentionality and boldness. We need not fear the challenges that stand in our path. We simply lean into who God made us to be and advance along that path, trusting that our God will remove any obstacles from our way as we go.

But hear this well: There are challenges that stand before us. There are challenges of facility. Parents of nursery-age kids don't want to leave their little ones across the street with total strangers, but they don't get anything out of the worship service when they're constantly telling them to be quiet

so they don't distract the people around them. For most of them the solution is to simply go somewhere else. Building the new sanctuary will be the beginning of the solution to that challenge, but it will be a challenge in and of itself.

There are challenges of connecting. As new people continue to connect here (that is, after all, what will happen when we get our identity right), we're in need of new Sunday school teachers for new Sunday school classes so that our existing groups don't get so big they lose their intimacy. Part of that will mean having folks willing to journey out from their current groups to be the seeds for a new group to grow. That's scary to think about, but those are rich fields that will yield a bountiful harvest when we sow them.

There are challenges of finances. Ministry takes money, and a growing church requires more of it than a declining church. God has all the resources in the world, but He tends to provide them through us. A new building will be a big financial step of faith. We're also actively searching for a new staff member to bring centralized leadership to our youth and kids' programs. We must all commit to the path of sacrificial generosity, together trusting God with our little so that He can make it more than enough.

There are challenges of reaching as well. Knowing where to go when it comes to reaching out, isn't always immediately clear. It takes a committed effort of prayer, a willingness for us to listen to where God is calling us to join Him in the community, and the courage to accept His invitation and step out into territory that may be deeply unfamiliar at first. Yet as we go, we can trust that He is already there waiting for us to catch up and experience the wonder of the work He has already begun.

In short, we are in for a grand adventure together as we continue down the path of fully embracing our God-given identity with wisdom, courage, and enough love to float an ocean liner. I could not be more excited at the prospect of what lies before us. I hope you are too.

Pastor Jonathan

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Our November Myrtle Beach trip dates are set for *November 11-13* (Monday-Wednesday).



Music: A Fair and Glorious Gift

Psalm 100:1-2 *"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into his presence with singing."*

Martin Luther said: *"I wish to see all arts, principally music, in the service of Him who gave and created them. Music is a fair and glorious gift of God. I would not for the world forego my humble share of music. Singers are never sorrowful but are merry and smile through their troubles in song. Music makes people kinder, gentler, more staid and reasonable. I am strongly persuaded that, after theology, there is no art that can be placed on a level with music; for besides theology music is the only art capable of affording peace and joy of the heart. The devil flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God."* Excerpt from "Singing in the Spirit" – MaryKay Beall

I encourage anyone interested in joining the Worship Choir on Wednesday evenings at 7:45 p.m., the Children's Choir that meets on Mondays after school until 5:00, or Preschool Choir (3-5 years) that meets on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m., we would love to have you join.

Also, an additional opportunity to "make a joyful noise" is our monthly Nursing Home Ministry. This month, we are going Tuesday, **February 12**, meeting at the church at 9:30 a.m. to sing at the Taylor House with Frances VanHorn, then enjoy lunch together.

FEBRUARY 24, 6PM
STANLY COUNTY AGRICIVIC CENTER

Battle Cry

HOPE FOR A COMMUNITY IN CRISIS

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
 I came that they may have life
 and have it abundantly.

John 10:10

For more information
 visit leeparkchurch.org
 or call (704) 289-4674

Our Record of Giving

Budget Goals - January	24,631.60
Budget Receipts - January (add 1/27)	20,603.15
Budget Goals - YTD	135,473.80
Budget Receipts - YTD	125,785.61
Budget Variance	-9,688.19
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	840.00
Wednesday Meals	429.00



Toiletries and household items are requested by Stanly Community Christian Ministries for February. These include, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, detergent, bar soap and feminine hygiene products. You may continue to drop off your donations in the basement kitchen area.



In case you haven't already met our new member, be sure to make TJ feel at home here.

TJ Smith
 645 Dunn Road
 Oakboro, NC 28129
 (704) 239-7752

WMU Sewing Day

Please join us in the Youth Center on Saturday, **February 9**, from 8:30 a.m. 'til noon-ish. WMU will be sewing dresses and cutting t-shirts for jump ropes, and we need people ironing. Keep those t-shirts coming in. Remember: they must be no less than 80/20 cotton blend and have no side seam. Join the fun!



In Honor



*In honor of **Lorrie Hatley**, the Worship Choir made a donation to the Building Fund.*

*In honor of **Ted & Jewell Parker**, a contribution was given by Mae Brooks to the Heck-Jones Offering.*

*The Worship Choir made donations to the Building Fund in honor of **Lorrie Hatley, Joe Huneycutt, Ted Parker, and Jordan, Ashlea & Iris Mooney.***

*In honor of **Dana Jenkins's** birthday, a contribution was given to the Building Fund by Jeff & Sandra Chance.*



Valentine's Day Soup Luncheon: Make plans to meet in the fellowship building on Thursday, **February 14**, at 12:00 noon as HOPE Fellowship will have a variety of soups, bread and desserts to enjoy. Please sign up on one of

the bulletin boards if you would like to make any of these items. **EVERYONE** is invited to join the fun!



Our next journey takes us back to The River's Edge Restaurant in Cheraw, South Carolina on Wednesday, **March 13**, leaving the church at 9:30 a.m. This is a unique Amish restaurant, featuring home-cooked meals and famous desserts. Come along!

In Loving Memory of

*In memory of **Margaret Tyson**, a donation was made to the Building Fund by Betty Huneycutt.*

*Thomas & Ellen Meadors made a contribution to the Building Fund in memory of **Teen Crisco.***

*Contributions were given to the Building Fund in memory of **Margaret Tyson and Gladys Helms** by Carolyn & Mark Hinson.*

*In memory of **Margaret Tyson, Gladys Helms, and Teen Crisco**, a donation was made by Deborah Tucker to the Building Fund.*

*Contributions were made to the Building Fund in memory of **Gladys Helms** by:*

- Jim & Cheryl Cameron*
- Michael & Starla Thompson*
- Ted & Jewell Parker*
- Worship Choir*
- Blessed Assurance Class*

*Donations was given by Doug & Ann Burgess and Jim & Cheryl Cameron in memory of **Larry Helms.***

*In memory of **Amy Edwards Boger**, a contribution was made to the Building Fund by Scott & Melodie Marcus.*



"We, Mary and I, would like to thank everyone who came to our 50th Anniversary celebration. It means a lot to us that you came – especially on such short notice.

Some gave a gift! Some gave a card! But all came bearing love and thank you for making our day special! We truly love our church family!"

Mike & Mary McClellan

"I thank you for the compassion and love shown during my mother's illness and death. Your prayers, calls, cards, and visits have sustained and strengthened my faith. My mom loved you all and was blessed to be supported by her church family. Special thanks to the choir for singing so beautifully and to the ladies who prepared a wonderful meal for us!

Love," Dianne and the Family of Gladys Helms

"Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the loving kindness you shared during our loss. Whether you prepared a meal, gave a contribution in Mom's memory, sent a card, or lifted us up in prayer, it was all graciously felt and appreciated. Our God is a God filled with joy and laughter, and He provides us with every opportunity to rejoice in the good times and the bad times. It is He who puts laughter in our hearts, and I truly know this is why we always saw a smile on Mom's face, because our lives are more abundantly blessed (and we are), when we are full of His joy and grace." The Family of Margaret Baucom Tyson



Church Volunteers

Date	Greeters	Nursery/Children's Church
Feb 3	Bobby & Renée Watkins – Sunday School Thomas & Ellen Meadors - Worship	Andy & Julie Castelloe, Lisa Waits
10	Eddie & Linda Arrowood – Sunday School Ted Parker – Worship	Lisa & Tracy Lowder Sandra Chance
17	Matt & Melanie Hudson – Sunday School Butch Poplin – Worship	Cheryl Cameron, Sheila Hinson WMU Sunday
24	Mandy Smith – Sunday School April Tucker – Worship	Marilyn Huneycutt, Matt & Melanie Hudson, Meredith Broadway
Mar 3	Gerald & Bonnie Lee – Sunday School Tracy & Lisa Lowder - Worship	Ashley Morton, Sandra Chance YOUTH Sunday

Date	Deacon of the Week	Stewardship
Feb 3	Tracy Lowder	Jim Cameron
10	Mike McClellan	Lynn Edwards
17	Thomas Meadors	
24	Chip Alsobrooks	Usher
Mar 3	Doug Burgess	Bill Yandle

Karen Peck & New River
And
The Isaacs



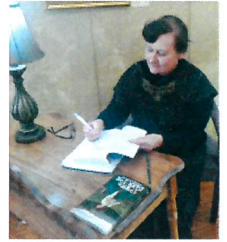
March 30, 2019
at 6:00 p.m.

Stanly County Agri-Civic Center

Tickets: \$22 for Orchestra; \$17 for General Admission
(Group pricing for 10+) – See Delinda for tickets
Relay for Life Benefit Concert

This Is My Story . . .

a Ladies' Brunch with Author Janice Cole Hopkins



All ladies: Sign up now to join us for an exciting brunch on Saturday, *February 16*, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Youth Center. Some of you had Mrs. Hopkins as a school teacher and perhaps a coach, even though she may have been Mrs. Gibson at the time. A headcount is needed to adequately prepare, so please sign up on one of the bulletin board sheets.

Focus on WMU

On *February 17*, it will be an honor to have Mrs. Linnie Wright, Mae Brooks's daughter, to be the featured speaker during the 11:00 Worship for Focus on WMU. You don't want to miss this!



Confirmed: June 24-29

Mark your calendars: Don't miss it!



First Baptist Church
 PO Box 10
 322 N Main Street
 Oakboro, NC 28129
 (704) 485-4313
 www.fbcoakboro.org

FEBRUARY

- February 3 Eddie Henry
 11 Micah Waits
 12 Joe Watkins
 14 Margie Helms
 15 Jim Davis
 17 Daniel Smith
 Scott Gwyn
 20 Debbie Love
 22 Mark Smith
 23 Sophie Tucker
 24 Bill Young
 25 Melanie Hudson
 Rick Baucom
 26 Kim Goodman
 28 Daniel Jenkins
 Taylor Morton (29th)

- March 1 Vickie Yandle
 Katie Broadway

Please call or email the office with any changes that need to be made to the list.

Sun	Mon	Weekly Sunday Schedule 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship					Fri	Sat
		Weekly Sunday Schedule 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship					1	2
							Youth Ski Trip: February 1-3	
3 Youth Return from Skiing	4 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 3:00 p.m. Children's Choir	5	6 5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 p.m. Missions Night for ALL Ages 7:45 Worship Choir	7	8 	9 8:30 a.m. WMU Sewing Day 		
10 8:30 a.m. Youth/Parent Meeting in Youth Center 11:00 a.m. Celebrate Sunday 5:00 p.m. Proverbs 31 Wannabes	11 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 3:00 p.m. Children's Choir	12 9:30 a.m. Nursing Home Ministry to Taylor House	13 5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 p.m. Preschool Choir, TeamKid, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:45 Worship Choir	14 	15 	16 9:00 a.m. WMU Brunch: <i>This Is My Story</i> with Janice Cole Hopkins		
17 11:00 a.m. Focus on WMU with Linnie Brooks Wright	18 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 3:00 p.m. Children's Choir 	19 	20 5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 p.m. Preschool Choir, TeamKid, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:45 Worship Choir	21	22	23 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Men's Mission Meal for West Stanly Christian Ministries		
24 6:00 p.m. "Battle Cry" Hope for a Community in Crisis at Stanly County Agri-Civic Center	25 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 3:00 p.m. Children's Choir	26	27 5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 p.m. Preschool Choir, TeamKid, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:45 Worship Choir	28	 UNSHAKABLE PURSUIT 2019 Heck-Jones Offering Week of Prayer: February 10-17			



UPCOMING EVENT
 March 3 - Youth Sunday